

UPDATING THE COUNCIL'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROTOCOL

Item 26/23 referred from Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee of 19 May 2026

Affordable Housing Protocol to reflect current economic conditions and changes in national planning policy. The report explained that the protocol, originally adopted in 2021, had been reviewed to ensure it remained practical and effective in securing affordable housing through the planning process.

The Committee noted that the revised protocol was intended to support a more consistent approach to viability testing, strengthen the use of the Council's evidence base, and place greater emphasis on developers demonstrating engagement with registered providers. Members were advised that the housing needs data appendix was currently being updated and that delegated authority for its final sign-off was proposed.

Cllr Thornewell proposed, Cllr King seconded and it was

***RECOMMENDED:** That

- (1) the revised Affordable Housing Protocol (attached at Annex 1) be adopted; and
- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Director for Planning, Housing and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Environment and Economy, to finalise and agree the Protocol appendix related to housing needs data once it had been updated.

***Recommended to Cabinet**